Setting up of rail welding plant at Bhiwani

1808. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a rail welding plant in Bhiwani;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work is estimated to cost about Rs. 3 crores. The plant is intended for welding of rails for track renewals programmed in the area.

(c) Subject to the availability of funds, the work is likely to take 18 months after its approval.

Mines in Hill District of U.P.

1809. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many mines of iron, copper in eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct any survey or set up a survey committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise;

(c) Some occurrences of iron ore and copper ore are reported in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh, most of which are small and un-economic at present. The only promising mineralisation is at Askot of Pithoragarh district where copper, lead and zinc ores occur together. Survey and exploration operation with the objective of assessing this reserve is being carried out by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Iron ore based industries in Orissa

1810. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sufficient scope for the expansion of iron ore based industry in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal pending before the Government both from private sector as well as public sector; and

(c) the steps being taken to clear those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A few entrepreneurs have shown interest in setting up iron ore based industries in Orissa. However, in view of recent policy changes of the Government, issue of a licence for establishment of such projects is no longer necessary.

Construction of General Pool Accommodation

1811. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of General Pool accommodation is very slow compared to other construction activities of the CPWD;

(b) whether a large number of employees of different categories are facing problem on account of this;

(c) if so, the steps taken to expedite the construction work in the near future; and

(d) the details of specific plan drawn up thereon?